

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
NOVEMBER 5, 2013 – 3:00 P.M. – Room #111 AIME**

APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: Steve Miller, Donna Meester, Rona Donahoe, John Vincent, Carol Duffy, Charlotte Herrin, Reuben Cook, Rainer Schad, Margaret Garner, Ed Stephenson, Steve Burch, Melondie Carter, Joanne Hale.

ABSENT: Sierra Turner, Jeannine Lawrence, Mangala Krishnamurthy.

GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog; Bob Riter, Parliamentarian.

Roll call and quorum check by Faculty Senate Secretary Rona Donahoe.

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting minutes of October 8, 2013 were approved with corrections.

Vice President's Report – (*Donna Meester*) No report.

Secretary's Report – (*Rona Donahoe*) Work continues on the Faculty Senate constitution and by-laws for posting on the Faculty Senate web page.

Research & Service – (*Steve Burch & Ed Stephenson*) The new Vice President for Research will be invited to speak to the Faculty Senate after the first of the year. A faculty member submitted to the Office of Research a pre-proposal for NSF competition where only two or three proposals go out from the University. The proposal was not chosen and the Office of Research has not sent the reason for the proposal rejection to the faculty member. There was an agreement for OR to provide that information concerning proposals. Form, process and transparency were discussed. The requirement of signing a confidentiality agreement was also discussed.

Information Technology – (*Mangala Krishnamurthy & Clark Midkiff*) Few complaints have been received concerning technology on campus. There continues to be problems with Outlook and Bama Mail email connections at faculty homes and offices. IT says it is problems with their server. Computer support, resources, software, access updates, classroom technology and classroom access were also covered. Any other issues should be forwarded to the Information Technology Committee.

Student Affairs – (*Melondie Carter & Joanne Hale*) A budget for the student application project is being compiled to take to UA Student Affairs hopefully by the end of this month.

The Alabama Reach gift card project is underway. The OCTSA is co-sponsoring this program with the Faculty Senate. A reception will be held for the students the first week of December. Melondie Carter will draft an email to send to President Miller for distribution to the faculty. Recommended are twenty-five dollar increments for the gift card. Receipts will come from the Office of Advancement.

The Steering Committee does not support the request from the SGA for on-line student support for test questions.

Financial Affairs – (*Reuben Cook & Rainer Schad*) The Financial Affairs Committee met with Vice President for Financial Affairs Lynda Gilbert, President Judy Bonner, and Provost Joe Benson. The University of Alabama credit rating is good. This year's budget effective October 1, 2013 is based on last year's enrollment. All buildings on campus are insured by the State of Alabama. There is a large deductible on the insurance policy. The economic environment will dictate tuition increases. The State appropriation for the University is only 18%. In 2008 the appropriation was \$199 million dollars and today the appropriation is approximately \$180 million dollars constituting a loss of \$60-80 million dollars in State funding. Most of summer school tuition goes to teaching faculty. An increase in summer school enrollment would increase revenue. New fraternity and sorority houses are replacing those that did not meet fire codes. Loans made to these organizations are a good investment. State appropriation distribution was discussed.

There are efforts to have parking permits issued based on salaries. The issues are disclosure of salary amounts, amount of revenue for parking services, tiers and timing of implementation. Another issue is parking fee increases with no Faculty Senate voice in the decisions. Parking services has to raise their own money with parking fees and tickets being their only revenue source. Faculty and student fees could be separated but faculty fees would go down and student fees would definitely increase. The decision was made to invite a Parking Service representative to speak to the Faculty Senate Steering Committee.

Faculty Senate Governance – (*Charlotte Herrin & Amy Taylor*) There will be a vacancy in the Merger and Discontinuance of Academic Units committee at the end of the year. There are three nominees – Steve Jacobs from Religious Studies; Ana Corbalan from Modern Languages and Classics; and Anwar Haque from Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics Department. Charlotte Herrin was commended for an outstanding job in organizing the Diversity Task Force.

Parliamentarian Bob Riter was commended for his assistance also.

Academic Affairs – (*John Vincent & Sierra Turner*) The Academic Affairs Committee met with Provost Joe Benson which was very productive and informative. The attention focused on tenure – non-tenure track faculty and set up costs.

The procedure to be followed pertaining to student medical excuses for absences was discussed.

The committee is proceeding on their portion of reviewing the Faculty Handbook.

Faculty Life – (*Carol Duffy & Jeannine Lawrence*) The Faculty Life Committee received a request to assist in non-discrimination policy wording. This issue will be discussed with President Bonner.

The report regarding the implementation strategies and resistance encountered in the implementation of a smoke-free/tobacco-free policy has been completed by the Faculty Life Committee. There will be a presentation regarding the history of tobacco use and an exhibit which was recommended by Margaret Garner.

Legislative Agenda – (*Margaret Garner*) The public relations campaign regarding increasing membership in the Higher Education Partnership is being developed. Liability insurance is a benefit when a certain level of membership is acquired.

There is a pilot being developed as an online financial literacy program called “Transit” which addresses the problem of student debt. There is a possibility of a financial institution sponsoring this program. An invitation will be issued to Mr. Jo Bonner, UA Legislative Representative, to address the Faculty Senate Steering Committee.

Other Committee Reports –

Faculty & Senate Benefits – This committee met last week and copies of the new insurance rates will be brought and distributed at the Faculty Senate meeting next week. This committee has written a tobacco-free resolution.

Committee on Committees – This committee has met. Melondie Carter is liaison to Student Health.

The establishment of emeritus faculty status was discussed. There seems to be no official policy regarding this issue.

A faculty member requested consideration of recognition of the fiftieth anniversary of the JFK assassination. Ed Stephenson will send information to President Miller to discuss with UA administration.

Meeting adjourned 5:00 P.M.

The Steering Committee proceeded to the Gorgas House for the Reception for the Deans.